

The Cover Story

My Personal “Bad Luck” Stamp

Scott 241 - \$1.00 Columbian by Phil Fettig

I've been a dealer since 1979, with all but 4 of those years part time. I knew from the beginning I would never be competing with the big dealers and their sets of dollar value Columbians, Trans-Mississippi and other big-ticket items. For reference before I get into the ugly nature of this story, take a look at the stunning example of the \$1 Columbian **Figure A1, on the front cover**. Having said all that, it was a pleasant surprise that twice in the past 2-3 years I purchased some better collections that contained a few high catalog value issues. Unfortunately, these finds have not turned out as expected (or dreamed for), and more important, for our customers either!

I sometimes offer our customers the option of making installment payments on higher priced items. **Figure A2, on the front cover**, shows a \$1 Columbian that came from a group of albums purchased from an estate. The collector had traded food for stamp collections while stationed in Germany in 1945-6. (See story in the August 2015 *Philatelic Missive*). It had a huge old-fashioned hinge so I soaked it off. It was well suited for “installment” payments after the bath. I guess if the customer paid 25% of the cost for the 1st installment I could give them the 25% of the stamp that is almost completely split from the larger piece! My bad for not noticing the thin line on the face that indicated the tear that the hinge was holding together.

Figure A3 is another bad luck item for which I have nobody to blame but myself! This item, another \$1 Columbian was part of a purchase that included around 35 Scott Nationals along with large

Figure A3



collections of United Nations and Israel. This

Figure A4

purchase was also described in a *Philatelic Missive*, however I cannot locate the date. It was a huge amount of material and I was pressed for time, even with Steve Patrick counting postage while I worked the albums. So, did I examine this stamp as



close as I should have?

Well, take a look at **Figure A4**, which is the lower right corner and you will get the answer – no I did not! **Figure A5** shows the back of this item. I would love to take the time to figure out what stamp the added piece came from. Preparing for FLOREX will not allow that use of time. I guess I will try to figure a “space filler” price and let it go.

So, there is my “bad luck” story, which really turned out to be my failure to observe!

[Editor's note: An extensive search of images in the current Scott's Specialized, produced no likely suspects that could have been used to create this piece of mischief – I do wonder what stamp provided the material!]

Figure A5

Citrus Ephemera by Francis Ferguson

A little background will be helpful and will explain my interest in citrus ephemera. My career started off in March of 1980 working for UF Extension. My boss had plucked me out of UCF because of my knowledge of programming on the Apple II computer. For the next 3.5 years, I was fully involved in many aspects of the citrus industry. I touched on almost everything in the industry. Citrus box labels fascinated me (and still do), but they are not stamps. I did know of citrus revenue stamps and would run across them occasionally in the course of the work I was doing. They were tough to find in the 1980s and are even tougher today. The material shown here is owned by a fellow CFSC member and forms part of his citrus revenue collection.

The use of the citrus revenue stamps still on paper, add an interesting depth to any collection. **Figure A6** is part of the total form that was required to document the shipment of citrus – and the collection of the tax. **Figure A7** is of the complete form – which is much more descriptive and adds context not found in the **Figure A6**. These forms are rarely found in pristine condition because of the nature of the use.

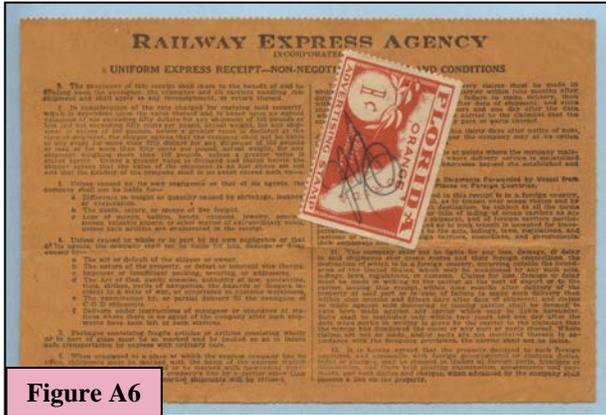


Figure A6

Figure A8 & A9



Figure A8 & A9 show the front and back of a rather well-worn piece of ephemera. It certainly does have character!

All three of the forms are transit forms for the Railway Express Agency which was the transporter of record for the produce listed. The details about the REA are well documented on the web.

The REA was established by the U.S. government in 1918 during WWI, in an effort to transport produce and industrial products in a reasonable time. A rather checkered history was left as competition from the USPS and UPS chipped away at the primary market that the REA addressed. Mismanagement, strikes and drastic financial losses forced the REA to file for bankruptcy, February of 1975.

[Editor's note: The materials shown in this article are owned by a Stephen L. Strobel a member of the CFSC. Stephen is also interested in seeing if anyone out there has any citrus revenue material.]

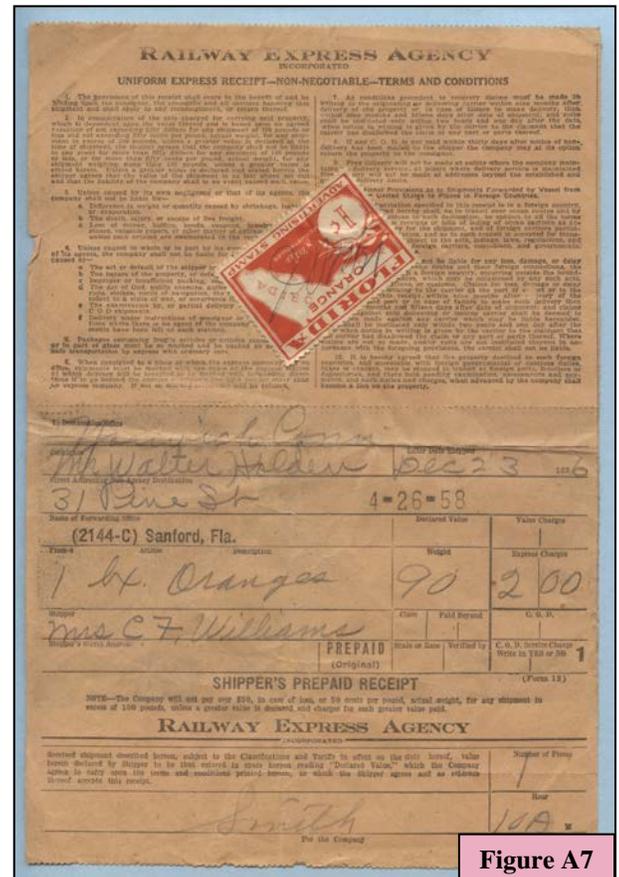


Figure A7